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BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY AND PLANT QUARANTINE

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TITLE

PRELIMINARY REPORT MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE INFESTATION CARIBOU NATIONAL FOREST 1950

by
T. T. Terrell

Forest Insect Laboratory
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

SUBJECT—

INDEX NO.—

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Forest Insect Laboratory
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

August 23, 1950

Forest Supervisor
Caribou National Forest
Pocatello, Idaho

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing a copy of a preliminary report by Mr. Terrell showing the 1950 status of the mountain pine beetle on the Caribou National Forest as indicated by the 1950 survey. Mr. Terrell's statement must be accepted as subject to some change at a later date. With the completion of the Targhee-Teton project some correction of the data may be necessary which could change our reaction to it. However, we do not see how such changes could make any material change in the situation as now presented.

In the second paragraph of his statement, Mr. Terrell mentions the examination of two trees attacked in 1949, which showed no brood development. As stated, this condition is often found in association with rapidly declining infestations. The attacks are successful in that the trees are killed, but as no brood develops.

In the McCoy and Rittere Creek areas the survey indicates reductions from the 1949 infestation of 90 and 40 percent. The 1950 infestation in these areas is also quite light being only .07 and .10 of a tree per acre. However, there is an area of some 600 acres which shows a concentrated infestation of .53 of a tree per acre or a total of some 400 infested trees. Our present reaction to this situation is that these trees be treated.

At the conclusion of the Targhee-Teton survey project a final overall report will be prepared.

Sincerely yours,

James C. Evenden
Entomologist in Charge

cc: Teton N.F.
Targhee N. F.
Grand Teton Nat. Park
Forest Service, Ogden
J. A. Beal
Park Service, Omaha

PRELIMINARY REPORT
MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE INFESTATION
CARIBOU NATIONAL FOREST
1950

by
T. E. Terrell

The Caribou portion of the Targhee-Teton insect survey was completed August 17, 1950. This memorandum will present the results of the survey in preliminary form.

During the survey seven units were covered by sample strips and two were examined by extensive reconnaissance. Examinations were made in the North Caribou Basin unit where very little mature timber remains and in the Bear Creek drainage which showed very little infestation last year. Two man-days search in each area failed to find any 1950 attacked trees. In the Bear Creek drainage two 1949 attacked trees were examined. No brood development could be detected in these trees. The rapid decline of the infestation in the Bear Creek drainage during the past two years is quite significant. Old red topped trees and black tops are quite numerous. This infestation reached a peak in 1948 when the trees were attacked in large groups.

The following table will show the data obtained during the present year.

Unit	Acreage of Unit	Infested Trees per Acre	% Change In Status
South Caribou Basin	6,400	0	-100
McCoy Creek	5,800	.07	- 90
Bitters Creek	2,000	.10	- 40
Trout Creek	2,000	.07	- 0
Snake River	3,000	.0	- 0
Jackknife	2,700	.03	- 10
Diamond Flats	4,000	.02	+100

Control measures were applied to the first three units listed during the spring of 1950. Approximately 4,800 trees were treated.

In the Diamond Flats area no 1950 attacked trees were found but one 1949 attacked tree that still had brood under the bark was recorded. Such trees are counted as new attacks because of their potential. In reality the increase indicated is without significance because of the low infestation present.

The infestation in the McCoy Creek in Bitters Creek unit is largely 600 acres in the Bitters Creek drainage which includes parts of both units. The area of concentration includes most of the west half of Section 7, T. 3S., R. 46E. and the east half of Section 12, T. 3S., R. 45E. There is in addition about 160 acres of 1950 infestation in the south half of Section 17, T. 3S., R. 45E. This small area is about one mile east of the Bald Mountain Guard Station. These two areas totaling 760 acres were found to be infested to .53 per acre - an estimated 400 infested trees.

These two areas constitute the only infestation found on the Caribou of any significance. While they do not present any real threat to adjacent areas in view of the long period that this infestation has been in progress, it is felt that a final cleanup should be made. These areas could be easily treated by a single small crew.